

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 02712 261309Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 AID-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /069 W
-----025565 261335Z /45

O R 260938Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8821
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 2712

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: INCIDENT IN SOUTHERN THAILAND

1. SUMMARY DURING THEIR MOST RECENT VISIT TO SOUTH THAILAND, MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY REFUGEE SECTION LEARNED OF A SHOCKING INCIDENT INVOLVING REFUGEES. SEVEN PEOPLE, INCLUDING TWO WOMEN AND A CHILD, WERE RESCUED FROM A SINKING BOAT BY A THAI FISHING VESSEL. THREE MEN, INCLUDING THE HUSBAND OF THE TWO WOMEN, WERE LATER THROWN OVERBOARD. THEY SAW THEIR WIVES BEING STRIPPED AS THE BOAT PULLED AWAY. SEVERAL DAYS LATER, AFTER THE MEN HAD REACHED CAMP, WE VERIFIED THAT THE BODIES OF TWO YOUNG WOMEN AND A MIDDLE AGED MAN HAD WASHED ASHORE NORTH OF SONGKHLA. THE BODIES CORRESPONDED IN AGES TO THREE OF THE FOUR MISSING PEOPLE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE COURSE OF A JANUARY 22 TO 25 VISIT TO SOUTH THAILAND, A REFUGEE SECTION PROCESSING TEAM LEARNED OF A BOAT WHICH HAD SAILED FROM VIETNAM ABOUT JANUARY 8. THE BOAT CARRIED SEVEN PASSENGERS, INCLUDING TWO COUPLES, THE CHILD OF ONE, AND TWO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 02712 261309Z

ADDITIONAL MALES. THE BOAT SANK APPROXIMATELY JANUARY 17. A THAI BOAT PICKED UP THE PASSENGERS AND KEPT THEM ON BOARD FOR THREE DAYS AS THE BOAT PROCEEDED TOWARD SONGKHLA. WHEN THE BOAT NEARED SHORT QUITE A BIT NORTH OF SONGKHLA, THE CAPTAIN REPORTEDLY LEFT THE BOAT TO CHECK WITH AUTHORITIES, WHILE THE REST OF THE CREW REMAINED AND THE BOAT CONTINUED ON. LATER THAT EVENING, THE THAI THREE THREE OF THE FOUR MEN, INCLUDING THE HUSBANDS OF THE TWO

GIRLS, OVERBOARD. THE LAST THEY SAW OF THE TWO GIRLS, THE THAI WERE STRIPPING THEM.

3. THE THREE MEN BECAME SEPARATED IN THE WATER, BUT CONTINUED SWIMMING UNTIL OTHER THAI BOATS INDEPENDENTLY PICKED THEM UP AND FINALLY DEPOSITED THEM CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHORE TO SWIM IN. SUBSEQUENTLY THEY WERE ARRESTED, JAILED, AND THEN TRANSFERRED TO SONGKHLA.

4. WHEN MEMBERS OF THE REFUGEE SECTION ARRIVED IN THE SONGKHLA CAMP, REFUGEES INFORMED THEM OF THE SITUATION, THE FEAR THAT THE GIRLS HAD BEEN RAPED, THE FACT THAT NEITHER OF THE GIRLS, THE REMAINING MAN OR THE BABY HAD BEEN FOUND, AND OF THE RUMORS THAT BODIES HAD BEEN WASHED ASHORE IN NAKHON SI THAMMARAT PROVINCE TO THE NORTH.

5. A DRIVE TO HUA SAI AND RANOT DISTRICTS OF NAKHON SI THAMMARAT JANUARY 25 RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION. POLICE IN HUA SAI SAID THAT THE BODY OF A GIRL APPROXIMATELY 16 OR 17 YEARS OLD HAD BEEN FOUND ON THE BEACH JANUARY 20. SHE WAS WEARING PANTALOONS SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT VIETNAMESE FISHERMEN WEAR. THE BODY, WHICH HAD APPARENTLY BEEN IN THE WATER FOR SOME TIME, WAS IN BAD CONDITION. MOST OF THE HAIR HAD FALLEN OUT. THE POLICE SUSPECTED THAT THE GIRL WAS VIETNAMESE SINCE THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF MISSING PERSONS IN THEIR DISTRICT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 02712 261309Z

6. BOTH DISTRICT AND VILLAGE POLICE OFFICIALS IN RANOT SAID THAT TWO BODIES HAD BEEN DISCOVERED WASHED ASHORE ON THE 18TH AND 19TH OF JANUARY IN DIFFERENT PLACES. ONE WAS THE BODY OF A GIRL APPROXIMATELY 20 YEARS OF AGE, DRESSED IN BLACK SATIN TROUSERS AND A WHITE BLOUSE. THE OTHER WAS THE BODY OF A MAN APPROXIMATELY 40 YEARS OLD. BOTH BODIES WERE SIMILARLY IN BAD CONDITION. THE POLICE SPECULATED THAT THE GIRL HAD BEEN RAPED AND KILLED, BUT OFFERED NO REASONS FOR THEIR SUPPICION. THESE BODIES WERE BOTH BURIED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISCOVERY. POLICE LIKEWISE SURMISED THAT THEY WERE VIETNAMESE, SINCE THERE WERE NO MISSING PERSONS REPORTS ON THAI.

7. THE DISCOVERY OF THE BODIES OF THE TWO GIRLS SIMILAR IN AGE TO THE WIVES OF THE TWO MEN WHO WERE THROWN OVERBOARD, AND OF A MAN WHO APPROXIMATED THE AGE OF THE MISSING MAN WHO REMAINED ON THE BOAT WITH THE GIRLS, SEEMS MORE THAN COINCIDENTAL. UPON RETURNING TO THE SONGKHLA CAMP, REFUGEE SECTION OFFICERS TOLD THE TWO MEN - TRUONG VAN HAU AND HUYNH VAN NAM - OF WHAT THEY HAD LEARNED, AND OF THE POLICE SPECULATIONS AS TO THE NATIONALITY OF THE BODIES. THE MEN SAID THAT THEY KNEW THE NUMBER OF THE THAI BOAT - 30 - AND THAT THEY COULD RECOGNIZE IT.

8. WE ARE INFORMING THE UNHCR AND THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
ABOUT THIS STORY, AND URGING THEM TO FOLLOW UP ON IT. WE WILL
BE COMMENTING ON THIS AND OTHER REFUGEE ITEMS IN A SEPARATE
TELEGRAM.
WHITEHOUSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO02712
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780038-1185
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780121/aaaaarql.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ed4a09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3712928
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: INCIDENT IN SOUTHERN THAILAND
TAGS: SREF, TH, VM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ed4a09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014